at Kaiga Kaiga 3 to 6) and 2 units of 500 MWe at Rajasthan (RAPP 5 & 6) and the 2x1000 MWe project at Kundankulam in Tamil Nadu. Site clearances from environmental and safety angles have been received from the Ministry of Environment and Forest as well as the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board for these projects. The implementation of these projects will depend on avajlablity of funds.

Threat of radiation leak from nuclear

256. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the newsitem which appeard in the Pioneer of September 22, 1994 under the caption, "Threat of radiation leak from Nuclear reactors";

(b) if so, what are the facts and relevant details in this regard;

(c) what remedial steps Government have already taken or propose to take to obviate the chances of the occurrence of the apprehended rupture and consequential leakage of dangerous radioactive material;

(d) whether problems with the pressure tubes in India's Canada reactors were discovered during a meeting of Canadian engineers and their Indian counterparts in Bombay in February;

(e) if so, what remedial measures were considered and how far these measures were taken subsequently; and

(f) what safety measures have so far been taken or proposed to be taken and what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHANWAR CHATURVEDI): (a) The Government is aware of the news item in the Pioneer dated 22nd September, 1994 which refers to Canadian concern about the condition of the pressure tubes and hence safety of the nuclear reactors in Rajasthan.

(b) The two Pressurised Heavy Water reactors in Rajasthan are the first of a series and were built in collaboration with Canada. The second unit has been in commercial operation since April, 1981. After information became available about rupture of pressure tubes in the Canadian reactors, monitoring, analysis and determination of the health of the tubes were intensified by the Nuclear Power Corporation and the Department of Atomic Energy. There has been no such rupture of pressure tubes in any of the Indian reactors.

(c) As the 2nd unit in Rajasthan is in commercial operation since 1981, based on the result of the continuous monitoring, the Nuclear Power Corporation has taken up exhaustive inspection of the coolant channels. Based on the results of the inspection, laboratory tests and analysis thereof, the Unit which is presently under shut down, will be restarted only if the health of the pressure tubes is acceptable. Otherwise the pressure tubes will be replaced by taking a longer shut down.

(d) to (f) India was fully aware of the possibilities of problem arising in the pressure tubes due to degradation in the strength of these tubes. These pressure tubes have been continuously monitored. During the Bombay meeting of February 1994 and subsequent meeting in IAEA, Vienna more detailed information on the problems faced by the pressure tubes of the reactors were exchanged. The Department has provided improved pressure tube material namely Zirconium Niobium alloy for the reactors commencing from Kakrapar Unit-2. In addition, improved design provisions to maintain ade-

quate space between inner and outer tubes throughout their life have been incorporated. This is supplemented by inservice inspection as necessary to ascertain the health of the pressure tubes. For older units, such design provisions are planned when the safe life of present pressure tubes is determind to be over and replacement taken up. Until then periodic inservice inspection, laboratory tests and analysis will be carried out to determine their health. All the above aspects are being continuouly reviewed by the existing multi-tier safety set-up headed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

Smuggling in unprocessed uranium

257. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unrestricted mining in the Uranium rich Domiasiat region in Meghalaya's West Khasi region has encouraged smuggling of unprocessed Uranium besides posting security risk;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the employees of the Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. are suffering from tuberculosis because of inadequate safety measures; and

(c) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government to check the smuggling of unprocessed uranium from the region and to protect the employees from environmental hazards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No; Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Security features of nuclear installations

258. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (A.E.R.B.) has recently directed the D. A. E. (Department of Atomic Energy) to carry out a full review of the Security arrangements in all the nuclear installations in the country including the nuclear power plants;

(b) if so; the details thereof;

(c) whether some steps have also been taken to strengthen the security measures recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) In the light of the recovery of 2.5 Kgs. of Sodium-di-Uranate, also called Yellow cake, in Meghalaya in October 1994 by the police authorities from four persons, an intimation has been, received by the Department of Atomic Energy from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board for a review of the security arrangements.

(c) Appropriate security arrangements have been made in all the nuclear installations of the Department both with Central Industrial Security Force and the DAEs Security staff. The arrangements are under constant review to strengthen and improve the systems.

(d) It is not in public interest to disclose the details of the security arrangements.

Setting up of Atomic Power Plant In different States

259. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: